

# THE ZION CONFERENCE.

Review in Detail of the Work Accomplished. General Officers Elected. Changes in Pastorates and Distribution of Episcopal Districts. St. Louis in 1904.

Because of the press of work, the Conference has been having both night and day sessions during the past week.

The Committee on Episcopacy has made the following recommendations: First district—New England, New York, Central North Carolina and Nova Scotia, Bishop J. W. Hood. Second district—North Carolina, Alabama and North Georgia, Bishop T. H. Lomax. Third district—South Carolina, Palmetto and South Georgia, Bishop C. O. Pettey. Fourth District—Blue Ridge, Central Alabama and South Florida, Bishop C. R. Harris. Fifth district—Western North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Bishop I. C. Clinton. Sixth district—Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri, Michigan and Canada, Bishop A. Walters. Seventh district—Philadelphia and Baltimore, West Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky and North Arkansas, Bishop George W. Clinton. Eighth district—Allegheny and Ohio, Western New York, West Alabama, South Mississippi and Africa, Bishop J. B. Small. Ninth district—North Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Cuba, Porto Rico and Oklahoma, Bishop J. W. Alstork. The Philippine work has been distributed among all of the bishops, while the California Conference is to be visited alternately each year by the bishops.

The next session of the General Conference will be held in 1904 at St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. W. H. Day, J. H. McMullen, W. A. Blackwell and E. A. U. Brooks are the secretaries of the Conference.

Rev. E. George Biddle, leader of the Holiness movement in the church and editor of The Trumpet, is one of the representatives of the New York Conference.

Among the prominent young ministerial delegates are Rev. W. H. Davenport, E. D. W. Jones, A. A. Crooke, George O. Clements, W. A. Blackwell, W. H. Marshall, J. H. McMullen and W. J. Holland.

There are perhaps more women delegates in this Conference than any similar body has ever had. There are perhaps twenty, one of which is an ordained elder, Mrs. Mary Small, wife of Bishop Small.

The Conference and delegations from same have been elaborately entertained by the several A. M. E. Zion churches in the city, and by Hons. H. P. Cheatham and J. W. Lyons, Mrs. Bertie Brooks Lewis, Miss Mabel E. Brooks and Lr. Philip Broome Brooks.

Many prominent visitors have been in attendance upon the sessions, among whom were Hons. H. P. Cheatham, J. W. Lyons, J. P. Green, Editor E. E. Cooper, Senator T. T. Allain, Hon. George H. White and R. W. Thompson, Jesse Lawson and Editor T. Thomas Fortune.

The Connectional schools are well represented in the persons of Dr. W. H. Goler, president of Livingstone College; Rev. M. D. Lee, principal of Lancaster (S. C.) Normal; A. McCaillan, Atkinson College, Kentucky; Greenville, Tenn. College and Walters Institute of Ark. are represented by Bishop Harris and Prof. Douglass respectively.

In the absence of the superintendent of the African work, a report of the same was made by Dr. Owen L. W. Smith, who is the accredited minister to the Republic of Liberia from the

United States, now in this country on leave of absence. Special provision will be made at this session of the Conference to spread the work on that continent.

The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Brown was celebrated. Addresses were delivered by Dr. A. J. Warner, Jesse Lawson, John H. Hector, the great temperance orator, who has recently returned from England where he has been for the past three years; F. J. Grimke, and an excellent paper prepared and read by Prof. Kelly Miller.

There will be many changes made in the pastorate of several of the largest churches. The New York church will be supplied either by Rev. W. J. Holland or Rev. E. D. W. Jones. Philadelphia by Rev. George L. Blackwell. Boston, Rev. J. H. McMullen or Rev. W. H. Davenport. In addition to this there are Allegheny City, Pa., Brooklyn, N. Y. and Camden, N. J.

The election of General Officers took place Wednesday, which resulted in the election of the following named persons: General Steward, Rev. Dr. J. S. Caldwell; Editor Star of Zion, Rev. J. W. Smith; Manager Publication House, J. M. Hill; President Livingstone College, W. H. Goler; Editor Sabbath School Literature, R. B. Bruce; Editor Quarterly Review, John C. Dancy; President W. H. and F. M. Society, Mrs. J. W. Hood.

Among the most prominent lay delegates are Hon John C. Dancy, Collector of Port of Wilmington, N. C.; Prof. S. G. Atkins, President Slater Normal and Industrial Academy, Winston, N. C.; Prof B. A. Johnson, Livingstone College; W. F. Fonvelle, the versatile newspaper correspondent and champion of lay representation in the church; Maj. R. R. Mims of Mobile, Ala., and Capt. Leatherwood of Asheville, N. C.

The General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church which convened in Metropolitan Zion church D street, southwest, on May 2d, is still in session. The Conference is composed of a fine looking delegation of men and women representing every department of the church, lay and ministerial. A great effort was made by some to commit the Conference to the election of two or more bishops; but the major portion of the delegates, backed by the people from whom they came, were inclined the other way. All of the candidates, save one, having withdrawn, the Rev. J. W. Alstork of Montgomery, Ala., was elected by the acclamation. The past two or three days of the sessions of the Conference have been given over to the reading of reports of the different departments of the church work most of which show gratifying signs of the spread of the work. The Conference is composed of about 320 delegates. There are nine bishops. Bishop J. W. Hood of Fayetteville, N. C., is the senior bishop.

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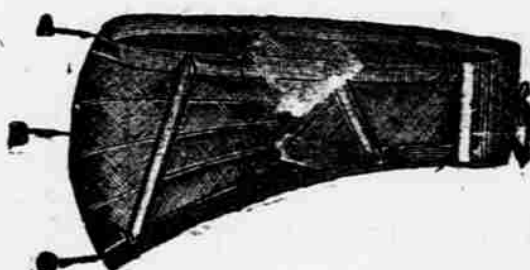
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